

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 29 remain in the application and have been amended hereby, with claims 2, 13-17, 28, and 30 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to claims 1, 5, and 6 as containing informalities.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct the editorial error noted by the examiner and it is noted further that claims 5 and 6 have been renumbered 29 and 30, claim 30 having been canceled hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Okano et al.

In paragraph 5 of the Instant Official Action, claims 2-4 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include claim 2 in its entirety. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 13-17, 28, and 30 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the rejection thereof.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1, which now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claim 4 has been placed in independent form.

Therefore, by reason of the amendments to claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter and the cancellation of

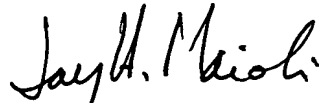
claims 2, 13-17, 28 and 30, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance.

The reference cited as of interest has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay H. Maioli".

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